

**TRINITY UNITED CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 26th, 2021**

**11:00-12:00 noon**

**Vote on becoming an Affirming Ministry**

**Motion: Members of the congregation will be asked to vote on the following:**

**“That Trinity United Church, Brandon, become an Affirming Ministry of the United Church of Canada, thereby also becoming a member of Affirm United/S’affirmir Ensemble.”**

**Participants attending Trinity United Church Meeting via ZOOM:**

Rev. Doug Neufeld, Jason Splett, Pat Bowslaugh, Shirley Kernaghan, Dave Thompson, Irene Thompson, Holly Walker, Dallas Green, Donna Neufeld, Pat Doctrove, Darlynn Smith, Carol Winstone, Ken Winstone, Shirley MacDonald, Judy Diswinka, Al Friesen, Linda Friesen, Norrie Rathwell, Irene Smith, Heather Moore, Gloria McMillan, June Pedlow, Barb Janzen, Lois Riley, Sharon Brooks, Sheila Atkinson, Glen Sawyer, Ruth Sawyer, Marv Pidhorny, Georgina Pidhorny, Marlene Campbell, Barry Hill, Gloria Hill, Helen Mitchell, Ken Mitchell, Hillary Baker, Val Poersch, Norm Poersch, Winnie Black, Miranda Edwards, Ken Knight, Kathy Knight, Alan Silvius, Darlene Silvius, Joanne McMillan, Dave McMillan, Helen Hicks, Sheila McCausland, Alison Murray, Julie Murray, Sherri Splett, Ruth Bilowus, Barb Roberds, Harvey Roberds.

**Total Voting=54**(Miranda and Barb had the same tally.)

**Total Attending=55**(Rev. Doug did not vote but he was in attendance.)

Reverend Doug led us in prayer at 11:00am.

**Motion #1. Miranda Edwards made the motion that all present will have voting privileges. Seconded by Joanne McMillan. CARRIED**

**Motion #2 Scrutineers will be Miranda Edwards, Barb Janzen and Jason Splett. Made by Darlynn Smith. Seconded by Alan Silvius. CARRIED**

**Al Friesen explained why we should become an Affirming Congregation as follows:** No one should be excluded. The LGBTQ plus Community faces specific challenges and rejection from the church. Affirming means to be public intentional and explicit about loving and living out our faith. To be Affirming means to be on a journey for greater justice for all the earth and all the people living on it.

"Love your neighbour as yourself with no exceptions". "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and with all your mind." These are the greatest commandments.

Trinity United has met all the requirements of Affirm United. Action Plan, Mission Statements and Marriage Policy were discussed.

**Motion #3. Al Friesen made the motion that Trinity United Church of Brandon approve Becoming an Affirming Ministry of the United Church of Canada thereby also becoming a member of Affirm United. Seconded by Alison Murray. CARRIED**

54 were in favour of the vote, 0 opposed and 0 abstained. Reverend Doug is so pleased how everyone worked together to meet their goals. Donna Neufeld thanked Al Friesen for his work in Trinity United Church becoming Affirming. Al Friesen thanked the Committee Members, Reverend Doug and the Church Board for their support. Jason thanked everyone for voting.

Reverend Doug led us in prayer at 12:04pm. He was very satisfied with the outcome.

Kudos to all who worked hard to become part of our meeting.



Jason Splett



Shirley Kernaghan

## Trinity United Brandon votes to become Affirming at congregational meeting

With the largest turnout for a congregational meeting in the last five years, Trinity United Brandon gathered virtually on September 26 to consider the question:

“That Trinity United Church Brandon, become an Affirming Ministry of the United Church of Canada, thereby also becoming a member of Affirm United/S’affirmir Ensemble.”

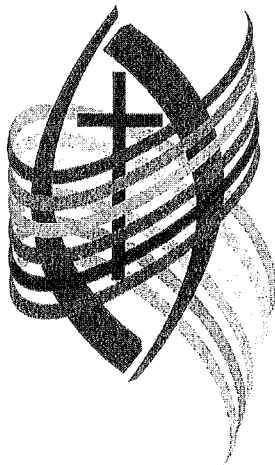
Board Chair Jason Splett facilitated a short agenda that was centred on the Affirming question. After the initial procedural motions had been carried, Equity & Diversity convenor, Al Friesen, spoke to the origin and background that led to the decision on this dimension of TUC’s missional future.

“... the Trinity congregation has engaged in a three year period (almost to the day ...), a period of learning and discernment through worship, study, asking questions, and reflection, on what it means to be truly inclusive and how becoming an Affirming Ministry will help us live out our faith.”

After a brief discussion, Jason asked for the vote with 54 voting “yes”, 0 “no”, and 0 “abstaining”. Motion carried.

The Equity & Diversity Committee has since met and recognized that although 100% of those attending the meeting voted to become Affirming, there may be those in our church community that weren’t comfortable in supporting the decision. They concluded that although some in the congregation may not fully agree, they are all part of the same church family and respected siblings of God.

“We pray that no one feels that they no longer belong.”



Trinity has tentatively planned a Service of Recognition and Celebration of becoming an Affirming Ministry for November 21. More details to come.

*30 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ 31 The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” Mk 12:30-31*

